

**ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2021–2022  
FOR PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL AGM  
(29 September 2022)**

**Loreto College, Mullingar**

Significant Developments over the past year:

- Our school has transformed back to pre-Covid times with all locker areas, classrooms, canteen re opened. We have added sandwich toasters and microwaves will be back in the coming days.
- Our school now uses the VShare App – Parents can pay fees , submit and check attendance and monitor behaviour tab.
- Ms Sinead Lawlor and Ms Carmel O Grady continue with their sick leave, and we wish them well. Olivia Callaghan will continue as Acting Principal in Sinead's absence
- Ms Bridie Smyth took over as Acting Deputy Principal as Ms Sinead Hyland took Maternity Leave. Ms Hyland resigned this role on return to school and Ms Smyth continues as Acting Deputy along with Ms Audrey Hanlon.
- Google classroom will continue to be used but as an additional learning tool
- Post of responsibility review- Introduction of a new post home school Liaison. As this is a voluntary secondary school it is not a stand-alone role, but it will be another person on hand to help the students.
- Guidance department has been extremely busy during the past year. The school also employed an outside counsellor one day a week to help students following the pandemic.
- The CAT 4 was administered digitally to all first-year students last September and parents were issued with a comprehensive report on their daughters' talents and learning strengths. Testing has also taken place for this year's group.
- Our new Board of Management began in October 2021  
Details of BOM on school website- Parent nominees Ms Monica Maxwell and Mr. Paul Moore.
- Leaving Cert Results

Our leaving Cert results were excellent, and we are extremely proud of all of our Girls. 152 students received their results All students excelled in their expectations. 34% students received over 500 points. From this 10 Students got over 600 points-4 with 625.

Our Guidance team have been working with all students who need advice and have been following up with college places etc.

We take pride in the academic success of our graduates but also in their ability to be active responsible global citizens. Congratulations to all students and teachers on these achievements.

We have no date as yet from the SEC for the Junior Cert results

Our Annual Awards Ceremony is postponed as we work on a new format. We will have more information on this by the end of the year.

We held a virtual open night in 2020 and 2021, we look forward to an in person Open night next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

- New Teachers in the past year  
Ms Valerie O Keeffe- Maths  
Ms Sarah Malynn- Home Economics  
Mr Gearoid Corcoran - Physics, Science & Maths  
Mingaile Locaityte has joined us in reception.

I must note that there is a significant teacher shortage in some subject areas- notably languages and Home Economics. Some jobs advertised throughout the year have had no applications .

- The library is currently being updated with some new books and technology.
- We held a subject fair and an online subject choice night for 3<sup>rd</sup> and TY parents
- Our school took part in the Credit Union Quiz, public speaking competitions, Young economist of the year , local enterprise award to name a few.
- Our 5th year Dev Ed. students will be presented to junior classes on a wide range of topics, including women's rights, climate change, human rights, global development goals, child trafficking and fast fashion. They also held a Chip Day in conjunction with Mr David Smyth to raise money for the Ukraine

All of our sport and extracurricular resumed throughout the year. I would like to thank all the staff involved as extracurricular activities are on a voluntary basis

#### Snapshot of extra-Curricular

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Club Year groups Venue Time</b>	Big Sister/Little Sis	French Club Junior /senior rotation	Trad group Mixed	Hockey 1st year	UCAS (Careers) 6th yes B14 1:30
<b>Club Year groups</b>	Walking Club All Meet at gate	Student Council All	Senior Football Seniors	Spanish Club Seniors	

Venue Time					
Club Year groups Venue Time	Hockey Mixed	Homework Club First Years, Senior prefects	GAISCE Bronze TY	Homework Club First Years, Senior prefects	
Club Year groups Venue Time	Basketball 1st GYM 3.55-5	Soccer U15 <b>Development squad</b> GYM 1.10	Promoting Positive Well- Being 6th Years	Badminton Mixed Sports Hall 1.15	
Club Year groups Venue Time	SVP Society. Seniors. B 11	Soccer U15 squad GYM/Hockey pitch	Book Club All	Basketball 2nd year	

- Mr Robert Masterson and our PR team worked produced our school newsletter
- 40 students went on the Gaisce trip in May
- All of our students (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year) went on a trip to Tayto park. We look forward to school trips recommencing again in the coming academic year

### Enrolment

Our first-year enrolment has remained steady at 150 students and total enrolment stands at 858 students.

- I wish to confirm to parents that the school is fully compliant in terms of Child protection and GDPR legislation and that all mandatory policies are available on our website.
- School Improvement Plan

The focus on the key skill of 'managing myself' with a strong emphasis on Wellbeing. Key areas of this plan focus on using digital technology to organise work, student and teacher reflection and student responsibility for their own learning journey. This is part of a four-year plan which aims to develop responsible and reflective learners. This was embedded in the last year as Covid changed outlook in all schools. An SSE review needs to be carried out this year on the impact of Covid.

- Our staff held extra full subject department meetings during the first week due to our staggered return.

- On Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup> we held a subject carousel fayre. Here staff shared numerous methodologies with their peers in order to enhance teaching and learning. Some staff members are also trialling some online learning aides
- TEACH MEET  
Sharing practice meetings have been taking place where teachers volunteer to meet and share methodologies and different tips to improve and enhance teaching and learning.  
Professional conversations at these meetings are very rich and teachers are welcome to come along without necessarily having a particular idea to share. These meetings will hopefully develop further where teachers will visit each other's classrooms to observe the different skills, tips and methodologies in action

- Finance:  
Finance remains a major concern and the ever-increasing costs of heat and power as well as maintenance and cleaning of the building pose ongoing problems in terms of day-to-day expenses and general maintenance. There are plans to increase some capitation, but we await to see what this will prove to be. Because of inequities in funding, it is unfortunate that voluntary secondary schools like ours need to ask parents for voluntary contributions to fund the basic day to day running of our schools. The most recent figures show a drop in voluntary contributions for each of the past two academic years.

- Supervised Study  
The school provides supervised study after school. There was an excellent uptake from all year groups last year and study will hopefully continue throughout the new school year. The uptake for this year is in the region of 45 students.  
Supervised study is available from 4pm to 6pm on Monday to Thursday payable per term.

Three students came 1st in the Senior Best Design category of the Discover Manufacturing 3D Printing competition. The girls fought off stiff competition from schools both in the republic and north of Ireland to win the top prize in the senior category. The girls each received a voucher along with a small trophy. As a result of this win, the school will receive a €2000 technology support package to further our use of digital technology.

### **SSPS Inspection**

Our school has an SSPS inspection in Dec 2021. We also  
Incidental Inspection on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1<sup>st</sup> day with restrictions eased

### **Virtual Camino School prizes**

Our first-year students and staff took part in the Virtual Camino De Santiago Challenge with Loreto Education Trust.

### **SEED Day 2022 (Skills Excellence in Education)**

As part of our plan for School Self Evaluation our SEED Day took on Friday 7th January 2022.

### **Health Promoting Schools –**

Our health promoting team worked hard last year on health promoting issues such as healthy eating and healthy mobile phone usage. Three of the team trained as Safer Internet Ambassadors

### **One Good adult**

Our school promotes the 'One Good Adult' Initiative.

### **The Students' Council**

The student council are organised Tinsel Tuesday in December to add more festive spirit to our school. Students will be encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers or accessories. They had a collection bucket and students contributed as they wished. This money was donated to Loreto Rumbek.

Our student council worked hard throughout the year. They are working on setting up some self-defence classes. Thanks to Mullingar Credit Union for its generous sponsorship

Our student council also gave input to our mobile phone policy

### **Student positions of leadership:**

Students embraced positions of leadership through the year such as head girl team, health promoting schools, Senior prefects.

### **Summer Projects 2022**

Work was completed on:

- The Gym was painted our gym was painted by outside contractors
- Our caretaker has painted rooms around the schools and is currently painting the concert hall. There is new Marmoleum Flooring throughout the A floor, this replaces older carpets.
- The school was used for the fleadh.
- Our Guidance department have moved down to two rooms by the Gym
- Our accounts office has moved over to the convent side of the building
- Teacher's workroom for those without a classroom moved to B floor.
- In our on-going programme of refurbishment 15 new locker units (30 lockers) were purchased for one of the locker rooms at a cost of €4,000.

### **2022 -23 (so far)**

All students returned on a phased basis which gave a chance for all year groups to have an assembly.

We held an information evening for 1<sup>st</sup> year parents, this was well attended and finished with some refreshments. It is envisaged to get all year groups in at some point throughout the year

Fire Marshall and Fire safety training took place for about 20 staff members- teachers/ office /caretaker

TY Students had their trip to Achill.

TY's, 5<sup>th</sup> year Home Ec and all Ag science students attended the National Ploughing Championships

The TY Musical will return under the leadership of Ms Claire Gilmartin. Our TY students are currently in rehearsals

Our TY's have all taken part in LIFT training and Sports Inclusion training

Our students have signed up for many leadership initiatives which will enhance their own leadership skills but also the school.

Our Guidance team held study skills for all 6th years, they also attended higher options in the RDS

2nd year geography students visited the Burren and Cliffs of Moher

Swimming is taking place for all 1<sup>st</sup> years

Our TY students are taking part in TY Superhero Physics workshops in conjunction with Midland science

Our school mass took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September. This was a wonderful community event as it was the first time that all our students were together since 2019. I commend all our musicians, singers and students who participated so fully and so respectfully

## Appreciation

- Staff  
All the activities and achievements outlined in this report are only possible because of the huge commitment and spirit of generosity that is endemic among all staff members here in Loreto College. All aspects of sporting and other extra-curricular activities are reported to the Parents' Advisory Council at the monthly meetings.
- Parents  
The school is hugely appreciative of the work undertaken by the parent nominees on the Board of Management. The commitment and involvement of Ms Monica Maxwell and Mr Paul Moore is very much appreciated and their support to me has been immense.  
Special thanks to the officers, Chairperson Charlotte Maguire, Secretary Anne Mc Caul and Treasurer Katie Murtagh and all members of the committee for their involvement in the Parents' Advisory Council over several years.

I record my thanks, appreciation to the PAC for all their help and support throughout the year. I thank you for the many funding initiatives which have been a great asset to our students.

I take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support of the school and its development. I urge you to maintain a strong involvement in school life as we continue in partnership to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our girls.

Olivia Callaghan  
Principal (Acting)  
29/9/22